

Cassis cameo Stimp. One sea-worn specimen on the ocean beach.
Semicassis sulcosus Brug. var. *inflata* Shaw. Rare.
Dolium galea Linn. Several broken shells. *D. perdir* is not found here.

Pyrrula papyratia Say. A few sea-worn specimens.

Natica pusilla Say. Common.

Natica duplicata Say. Common.

Sigaretus perspectivus Say. Not common.

Sigaretus maculata Say. Rare. I believe that this is identical with *S. Martinianus* Phill., of the West Indies. The only apparent difference is that the revolving brown bands of *S. martinianus* are irregularly divided into *maculations* by broad longitudinal lines which usually represent rest periods in the growth of the shell and are frequently on *S. martinianus*.

Pyramidella conica C. B. Ad. Several specimens.

Littorina irrorata Say. Common.

Littoria scabra L. var. *lineata* Gmel. Common on the sea wall but much smaller than those from the southern part of the State.

Cerithium atratum Born. Common around Marsh Island.

Cerithidea scalariformis Say. Common along the marshes west of the city.

Cerithiopsis greenii C. B. Ad. Common.

Cerithiopsis terebralis C. B. Ad. Common.

Triforis nigrocinctus C. B. Ad. Common.

(To be continued.)

A WORD TO YOUNG COLLECTORS.

BY JOSIAH KEEP.

We ought to feel a great veneration for the men who have gone before us, and who spent so much time and strength in preparing the way for those who were to follow. Whenever we take up the label of a shell and see the abbreviation "Linn." following the specific name, how it carries our thoughts back to the great Swedish naturalist who did so much to simplify the nomenclature and enlarge the domain of science.

And as we cannot exercise feelings of veneration and gratitude for mere names of unknown persons, it is well for us to become somewhat acquainted with the lives of the great naturalists whose initials meet us whenever we glance over our collections. For some of us, perhaps, this is not an easy task; but fortunately books and papers upon these subjects are becoming more common, and it is much easier now to obtain this information than it was a few years ago. Such names as Say and Gould and Binney, for instance, while they serve primarily to identify the terms which these authors applied to their species, may themselves be studied and identified; and as we learn more of their pure and earnest lives, we shall have a deeper respect and a more profound veneration for the men who studied and wrote before we were born, and who left us the fruits of their labors. Veneration for character and admiration for attainments are healthful feelings, and their free exercise speaks well for the youthful mind.

And not only for the dead, but also for the living naturalists we should cherish these feelings, and seek for information concerning their lives. Many of them in their youth experienced the same perplexities and encountered the same difficulties which beset some of us now, and as we learn of their victories we may be encouraged to more vigorous action.

But while we entertain these sentiments of respect and esteem for both the past and the present workers in science, it is well to remember two things.

First. The men and women who are to be eminent in science forty years hence are boys and girls now. Each year adds to the list of the honored dead. A few, like the venerable Isaac Lea, spend nearly a century among the scenes of their labors and pleasures; but others, like the lamented Tryon, are cut down suddenly, in the midst of active vitality. The ranks are being recruited, it is true, but the recruits must ever come from the young.

Second. Truth is greater than any of its expounders. While it is desirable to know the names which eminent men have given to the various species of mollusks which we collect, it is still more important to know their nature, their habits, their food, stages of growth, and changes, and to observe their motions and conditions of activity or repose. Where we cannot observe the living animal, we can at least study the shell, and notice its points of resemblance to others, also its differences; we can examine its structure, test its composition, note

its variation in different specimens, and endeavor to find out for ourselves its prevailing form and characteristics.

It may be that our investigations will lead us to conclusions differing from those which are commonly held; in which case we have a right to modestly hold and express them, until the uncertain points are settled.

Finally, the motives which should induce us to study and collect shells are varied; but among them may be mentioned the laudable desire to possess a series of objects which are of great beauty, both in outline and in color; next, the wish to learn the form, nature, and habits of the creatures which belong to one of the great sub-kingdoms of the animate world; then an endeavor to study the questions relating to the real meaning of the terms genus, species, and variety; how far they are natural and how far artificial; and lastly, to study modern mollusks so that we may be fitted to understand and interpret the numerous fossil shells which figure so extensively in the geological records of this grand old planet.

**NOTES ON SOME NORTHERN PUPIDAE WITH DESCRIPTION
OF A NEW SPECIES.**

BY. DR. V. STERKI.

Of late, I have received, from a number conchologists in different parts of the country, many valuable Pupidae, partly sent for examination or determination, partly in exchange or cheerfully given for my collection, which now contains about 375 lots (of *N. Am. Pupidae*). But I need many more, especially of some difficult and doubtful species and groups, for a thorough study of this family. A part of these newer acquisitions are of so much importance, either systematically, or in habits, that a few notes about them may be welcome to the student of our malacological fauna. The latter becomes more and more interesting, as our knowledge of the distribution of the species is widening and their varieties and local forms are more numerous. But also new species have been found, and more doubtless will follow, as was and is to be expected from the immense area of our country, of which only a small part has been thoroughly investigated as to these little creatures.